

From: Carolyn Yale

To:

Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2003 10:14 AM

Subject: in case i miss the environmental water objectives call 12/17

I'm swamped and do not anticipate making this afternoon's call. Here are some thoughts:

Comments for the Environmental Water Objectives (particularly in event of absence from the 12/17 conference call)

Carolyn Yale

Key Points...

We need to remind ourselves that we haven't worked out strategies for securing this "dedicated" water, above existing requirements (truly a misnomer in the case targets which are higher than currently "protected" flows/supplies).

In discussing future work we might identify uncertainties regarding current target estimates and areas where we don't even have estimates. For example, although on a conceptual level there may be agreement that flow targets need to incorporate floodplain and channel processes, more "science" and trials are needed to improve targets for these functions. Also, I suspect there are many streams where environmental objectives and appropriate flow needs haven't even been studied – not to mention lack of environmental dedications or targets; such streams would be at particular risk for additional diversions and/or changes in flow operations. This is further work for Phase 3.

Scenario Description excerpts:

Scenario 1:

C Some increase in the extent of managed wetlands designed to use in cleansing wastewater due to projects....

(Comment: I would separate the concepts of increases in wetlands for cleansing wastewater, versus high flow management and ecosystem restoration. There are ongoing projects sponsored by CALFED, the Habitat Joint Ventures, and others to improve and restore wetlands which should be recognized in current trends. If you choose, make a separate sentence referencing increases associated with wastewater cleansing.)

Scenario 2:

Comment: Consider separate bullets for flow-based and land-based targets. For land-based, you might try on the following:

C Managed wetland protection aims to enhance and restore fully functioning wetlands with connectivity to river and stream systems. Initial reference targets are derived from FWS and DFG plans for refuges and wildlife management areas, and habitat joint venture plans. To the extent information is available, this scenario also recognizes projects sponsored by NGOs and local agencies, such as land trusts. (Staff would use "Level 4" supplemental water supplies for the National Wildlife Refuges. Water needs for other areas can be approximated, based on land use.) Note: Some of this estimating may go into Phase 3.

C Delete the reference to Level 4 supplies in the first bullet, focusing that text on flows.

Scenario 3:

Comment: I'm wary of positing that the resource intensive scenario resembles Scenario 2. However, as with Scenario 2, I would provide a separate land-based environmental water bullet. One problem with accomplishing environmental conditions under this scenario could be economic— competition for land and water. How this plays out for environmental protection will depend, among other things, on how we interpret regulatory and cost-internalization policies.

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